

BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



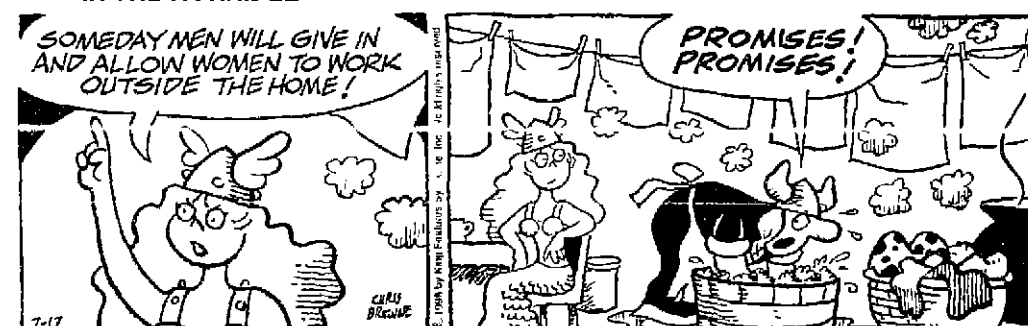
ANDY CAPP



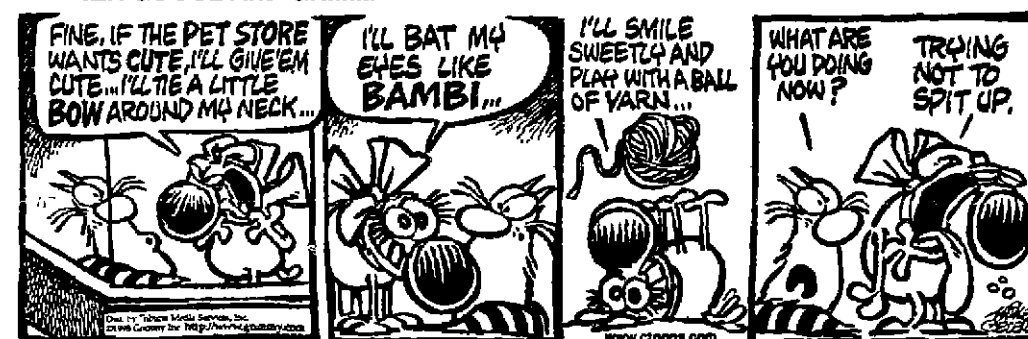
ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



DILBERT



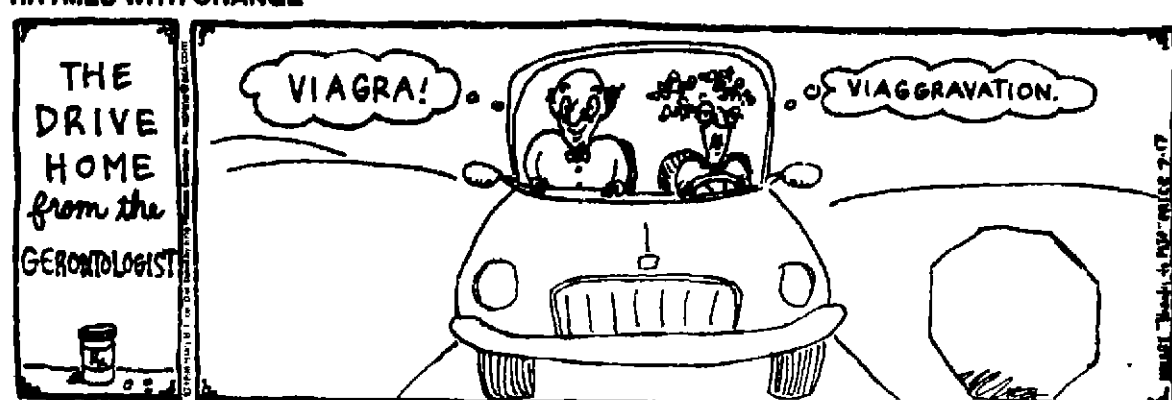
DENNIS THE MENACE



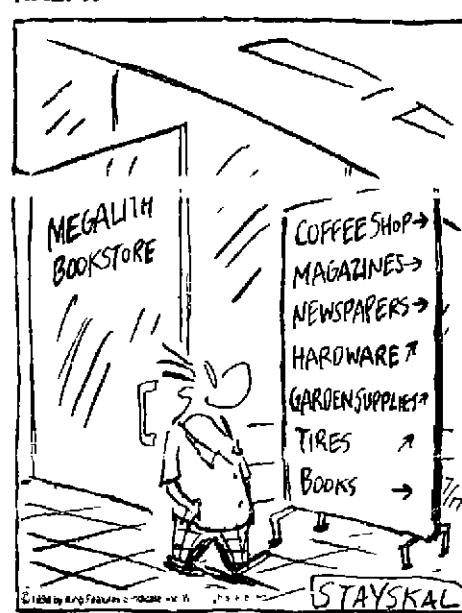
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



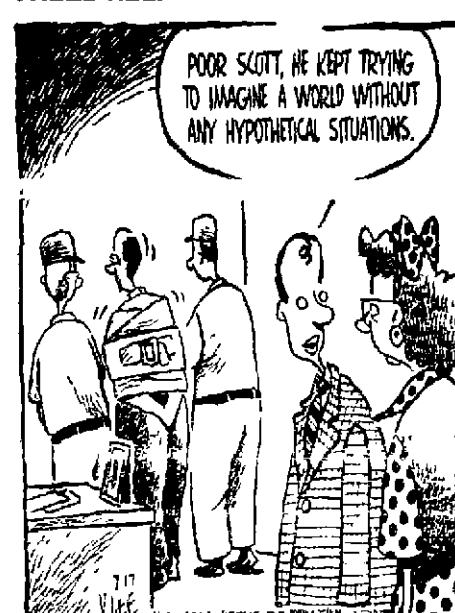
RALPH



Today's Birthdays

TV personality Art Linkletter is 86
Comedian Phyllis Diller is 81. Actor Donald Sutherland is 67. Actress and singer Dianna Carroll is 63. Rock singer Spencer Davis is 56. Rock musician Terry "Geezer" Butler (Black Sabbath) is 49. Actress Lucie Arnaz is 47. Actor David Hasselhoff is 46. Singer Phoebe Snow is 46. Hip-hop singer Guru (Gang Starr) is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Stevie Nicks (Mint Condition) is 31. Singer JC (PM Dawn) is 27.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 130-140
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Cheney). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 7-17-98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

RACK 1: T, Y, T, S, O, O, O
RACK 2: J, T, C, D, A, U, N
RACK 3: T, L, H, E, O, S, S
RACK 4: S, T, I, U, U, P, R

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Pet Names

C I G E B Y W U R B P N K I G
D E B Z X V D G U S Q O M K I
G E V A L E N T I N E C A Y W
U S Q O A I T K E S P E N L I
H F E R L E C I U A I Y Y X
V U S R R O P T T O P P N E M
K J A C L E H T E I F R B N E
C D U B I E Z E E C Y A X O V
U P T T R Q G N W E B G P H O
M P U M P K I N S R W U L K I
E C A F L L O D A P H S G E D

Thursday's unlisted clue: CROQUET
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: MADE BY BEES

Angel Darling Love Sweet pea
Babe Dear Precious Sweetie
Buttercup Dollface Pumpkin Valentine
Cute pie Kitten Sugarpie

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

The suit-preference signal was the subject of a heated discussion after the defenders had allowed South to make off with today's game. Review the play, examine the reasoning of both parties, and judge which side deserves the blame. West led the spade king, and East signaled emphatically with his jack. West pondered over East's intentions and eventually switched to his heart 10. South took dummy's ace and led a trump honor from dummy. East refused, but South persisted with dummy's remaining trump honor. East took his ace and desperately returned a heart, but South had an easy claim. He drew East's last trump and led only the two black aces to score his vulnerable game. "Why didn't you lead another spade at trick two?" asked East. "I signaled with the highest card I could spare. If we force dummy to ruff at trick two, then, when I capture one of dummy's honors, I force dummy to ruff with the other honor. Later I score my trump 10, and the game goes down." "I thought your spade jack was a suit-preference signal," replied West. "Had you held the heart king and A-x or A-x-x in trumps, how else can we beat the game?" How do you judge? East gets 100 percent of the blame. He knew the future lay with promoting a second trump trick. West did not. Instead of asking West to do what East could do himself, East should have overtaken and returned a spade, avoiding any confusion about suit-preference signals.

NORTH 07 17 A
♠ 7
♥ A Q 8 2
♦ A K J 10 9
♣ K Q 3

WEST
♠ K Q 5 3
♥ 10 9
♦ 8 5 4 3 2
♣ 4 2

EAST
♠ A J 10 9 6
♥ J 6 4 3
♦ 7
♣ A 10 5

SOUTH
♠ 8 4 2
♥ K 7 5
♦ Q 6
♣ J 9 8 7 6

Vulnerable Both
Dealer: North

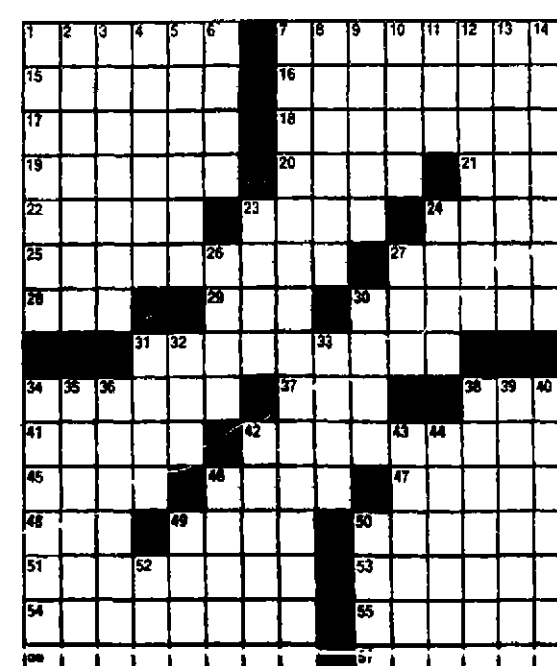
The bidding
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
5 ♠ Pass Pass
*pre-emptive raise

Opening lead: Spade king

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0605

- ACROSS**
- "Please be —"
 - Understandable
 - Plenary
 - Start of Barney's theme song
 - Beating
 - Pre-meltdown signal, maybe
 - Part of the food pyramid
 - "Misery" star
 - Rouge or noir, e.g.
 - "Rawhide" singer
 - Native of Kirkuk
 - River crossed in the Korean War
 - Child-rearer's comment?
 - Swindle
 - Planner's fig
 - Name, either good or bad
 - Ring responses?
 - Talus
 - James and Jackson
 - Have, as a fever
 - Touch of Jack Frost
 - Just vegetate
 - Cape Dutch
 - Gave — on the back
 - Mate's call
 - The unmarried woman in "An Unmarried Woman"
 - Escape
 - Collection agent's target
 - Rough voice, metaphorically
 - Low-grade, as conflagrations go
 - Straight
 - 1898 ship in the news
 - Oder—Line (German-Polish border)
 - Take care of
 - Roofing specialist
- DOWN**
- Aquamarine
 - Gets in a sting
 - Evangelist's target
 - European central
 - Gradually disappeared
 - Bell girls?
 - Seal, e.g.
 - Mrs. of legend
 - Surfer wannabe
 - Hunter of fiction
 - Bapt. or Episc.
 - Socket filler
 - Razor brand
 - Childing remarks
 - German canal city
 - Kind of bde
 - Safe places
 - More than displease
 - Husbands



Puzzle by Marjory Nosworthy

- Daughter of Hagar the Horrible
- Church book
- Pipe-smoking actor Brian
- Part of an ear
- Home of the descendants of Ishmael
- Anticipate
- Minnesota's St. — College
- Arms (for)
- Journal publisher, for short

Answers to daily crossword puzzles are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years 1-888-7-ACROSS.